Pueblo Grande Museum Auxiliary Membership Application

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I wish to become a member of the Pueblo Grande Museum Auxiliary. Enclosed is my check or money order for $______________

Name(s)__________________________
Address_________________________
City_________________ State_________
Zip_________________ Phone_________

Membership categories:
Student $10.00  Contributing $60.00
Individual $20.00  Patron  $125.00
Welcome . . .

Pueblo Grande Museum was founded over 80 years ago to preserve and interpret this site – a prehistoric Hohokam village.

In the Museum You’ll See
- An orientation video introducing the Hohokam and Pueblo Grande
- Gallery exhibits featuring the Hohokam and the science of archaeology
- The Museum Store

On the Outdoor Trail
- A Hohokam platform mound – an ancient “city center”
- Replicas of two types of homes built by the Hohokam
- An excavated ballcourt
- A traditional garden
- A Native Plant Oasis

Exhibit Galleries
After you’ve toured the outdoor trail, we suggest you visit the museum’s exhibit galleries:

- Landscapes and Lifeways
  South of the lobby, this introductory gallery provides an overview of the 1450 year Hohokam occupation of the Salt River Valley. A mural depicts Pueblo Grande ca. AD 1350.

- The Land and the People
  South of the introductory gallery, explore the Hohokam environment, agriculture, foods, trade, skywatching, arts and crafts. Learn how archaeologists reconstruct Hohokam lifeways.

- Changing Exhibit Gallery
  In the east gallery, changing exhibits feature the history and archaeology of Phoenix and the Southwest.

- Dig It! Explore Archaeology
  This interactive exhibit gallery is located to the northeast of the lobby, adjacent to the Theater. Kids and adults can explore the basics of the science of archaeology.

For Your Convenience
Restrooms and drinking fountains are in the museum lobby. As you exit the main entrance, vending machines and tables are to your right.

The Museum Store
Located off of the lobby, the store features books, American Indian jewelry and pottery, compact discs, cassette tapes and other items. Museum Auxiliary members receive a 10% discount on most purchases. Store proceeds support Museum programs and exhibits.

Thank you for visiting!
WHO WERE THE HOHOKAM?
The farmers who lived in villages along the major rivers of the Sonoran Desert are called Hohokam (ho-ho-KAHM) by archaeologists. The term comes from Huhugam (HOO-oo-gahm), an Akimel O’odham (Pima) word meaning “those who have gone.” They settled the area about 2000 years ago. For the next 1500 years they farmed along rivers, building over 1000 miles of irrigation canals. Partly due to a cycle of floods and droughts, the Hohokam abandoned their major villages about 500 years ago.

WHERE DO I GO FIRST?

THE THEATER  We suggest that you begin northeast of the lobby with this ten-minute video offering an overview of the Hohokam and the ancient village of Pueblo Grande.

NEXT, tour the 2/3 mi (1 km) outdoor trail. When you return, visit the exhibit galleries. This guide and the museum’s signs will help you find your way. Staff or volunteers will be glad to answer any questions.
**10 THE TRADITIONAL GARDEN**

The garden consists of plants cultivated by the Hohokam. The plants grown here are from seeds that have been used historically in the Southwest. Plantings vary seasonally. Spring may include O’odham corn, beans and cotton; and in summer, squash, corn and beans.

The Hohokam cultivated perhaps 100,000 acres here in the Salt River Valley. The Hohokam grew the largest variety of crops in North America. They used a vast system of main and distribution canals, weirs, and headgates to direct the water. In the fields, lateral canals and small wooden or stone gates distributed water.

Thousands of acres of lush fields had an additional benefit - animals attracted there could be hunted. These animals likely constituted a major portion of meat in the Hohokam diet.

**11 THE HORMO**

This cooking pit is a replica used for the Museum’s annual agave roast. Archaeologists have uncovered Hohokam hornos, like the one pictured below, up to 10 feet (3m) wide. The interiors are lined with a thick, blackened organic crust.

Hornos excavated at Pueblo Grande contained charred agave and other foods, with many fire-cracked rocks. The cooking pits were probably used mainly to bake sweet, nutritious agave hearts.

**12 NATIVE PLANT OASIS**

The most diverse desert in North America provided fruit, seeds, herbs, fiber, and small game animals for the Hohokam. While desert resources were utilized year-round, the summer harvests of abundant saguaro fruit and mesquite beans were especially important.
9 THE BALLCOURT

Ballcourts were built and used beginning about AD 750. Around AD 1200, the system was abandoned, perhaps due to a change in Hohokam ideology. More than 200 ballcourts have been found in the Hohokam region, and more than 30 in the Salt River Valley.

Ballgames may have served to promote ceremonial or market activities. During a game, crowds could gather along the embankments surrounding the court. At each end of the court, constricted openings may have been goals, into which players tried to place rubber or stone balls.

The games may have been similar to those played in Mesoamerica; Hohokam courts and trade items suggest a connection with cultures from Mexico and further south. Hohokam ceramic figurines of individuals wearing pads on their arms and hips, similar to Mesoamerican ball players, have been found, as have petroglyphs of possible ballplayers.

The outdoor trail moves back through time from later Hohokam structures like the platform mound, to the ballcourt — one of the early features of the site. The information below supplements the signs along the 2/3 mile (1km), wheelchair accessible trail. Allow about 45 minutes for your tour.

THE PLATFORM MOUND, AD 1450

Platform mounds dominated Hohokam villages from about AD 1200 - 1450. Spaced at regular intervals, about every 3 miles (5 km) along main irrigation canals, they may have been administrative centers for canal construction and maintenance. Rooms on top of the mound were probably used for ceremonial activities.

The Pueblo Grande platform mound was constructed as two separate mounds starting around AD 1150. By AD 1300, the Hohokam had joined and expanded them; the rectangular mound eventually reached the size of a football field and was 25 - 30 feet tall. A compound wall over 6 feet tall surrounded the platform mound.

1 PLATFORM MOUND CONSTRUCTION

At the southwest corner of the mound, the granite, sandstone, caliche (kuh-LEE-chee), and mud that make up the mound walls are exposed. The Hohokam had no draft animals; rocks were carried 1 - 2 miles to the site. Caliche, a hard, naturally cemented soil layer, was mined nearby.

Archaeological sites are fragile and non-renewable. You can help preserve this site:

- Please stay on the trail for your safety and for protection of the site.
- Please do not touch, climb, sit or stand on walls or barriers.
- Please do not pick up artifacts! Federal and state laws apply.
- Please remind others of how they can help preserve the past.
2 A REMNANT OF THE COMPOUND WALL
At the southeast corner of the mound, on the ground to your left is a small linear mound of rock and earth. This is a remnant of the compound wall, as much as 3 feet thick and 6 feet high, that once surrounded the platform mound.

Many archaeologists believe the wall restricted access to the platform mound; there were probably areas of the mound open only to Hohokam leaders.

3 RAMADA
The trail leading south takes you to the top of the mound and loops back to the ramada. To the north are Hohokam house replicas and the ballcourt. We suggest you visit the top of the mound first.

4 MOUND PRESERVATION
What’s different about the two ends of the mound? The south end has been excavated by archaeologists; the north end has been left intact. Excavation is a destructive process, so portions of the site have been left unexcavated for future study. Native people, too, prefer sites be left undisturbed. Archaeologists today excavate a site only when construction or some other process will cause subsurface disturbance.

Preservation is one of the Museum’s most important jobs. A program for stabilization, designed by the National Park Service, replaces soil lost through erosion. The small plastic grates along the trail are part of a drainage system minimizing erosion from water.
8 THE PITHOUSE CLUSTER  Exhibit open to the public - come in!  
Please! Touch items carefully and leave in place for future visitors.

The replicated pithouse cluster includes three of this early style of Hohokam home, common 1000 years ago. Typically, several of these wood-and-earth houses were arranged around a shared courtyard.

Pithouses required frequent maintenance. The building materials in the courtyard could be used for upkeep and repairs. Food preparation tools are found under the ramada — metates for grinding, and round stone mortars for crushing foods like mesquite pods to make flour.

Illustration by Michael Hampshire

The center pithouse is open; enter through the cut-away on the west side.

Who lives in the pithouses? Notice the hearth by the ramada. Ash, firewood, and charred ceramics indicate this was a pottery-firing pit. Perhaps a potter lives nearby.

Inside the center pithouse (open to the public), do any of the artifact replicas give you clues about who lived there? The basketry, bowls, jars, and textiles in this room are items commonly found in Hohokam homes. However, the group of tools next to the low entry are specialized tools for making pottery. Nearby, baskets hold numerous tools used to decorate pottery. These items and the firing pit outside indicate a potter lives here.

5 MOUNDS OF EARTH

On the north end of the platform mound, earthen mounds on either side of the trail look much as they have since the 1800s. They are the remains of structures that were built on top of the mound. Some were rooms and some were earth-filled cells, creating platforms for third-story rooms.

Over the centuries, these structures collapsed and eroded, leaving only mounds of earth to show their location. Rocky outlines of room walls are still visible in some areas.

6 RIPARIAN HABITAT

Rivers flowed year-round and fed a vast canal system when the Hohokam lived here. Riparian, or riverine, areas provided plants used for building material and weaving. At certain times of the year, the small, concrete-lined Crosscut Canal is filled with cattails and other riparian plants. Watch for water-loving animals here. Frogs and waterbirds were a common motif for Hohokam artisans.

Cattails in the Crosscut Canal
**7 THE ADOBE COMPOUND**  
*Exhibit open to the public - come in! Please! Touch items carefully and leave in place for future visitors.*

Because adobe and natural building materials erode, no intact prehistoric Hohokam homes exist anywhere. This replica of an adobe residence includes a walled courtyard and ramada like those where Hohokam extended families shared chores 700 years ago. Replicated artifacts and modern examples in the compound and the northeast adobe room give clues about who might have lived here and what kind of work they did.

As you enter the courtyard, notice the building materials used to make home repairs or to build room additions. Under the ramada, stone mortars and metates are ready for use in grinding corn or mesquite pods. Families could gather in the courtyard for tasks such as food preparation or tool making.

*Illustration by Michael Hampshire*

**The northeast adobe room exhibit is open to the public.** Explore the room and notice the artifact replicas. Do they provide any clues about the occupants? Note the loom and weaving tools inside the room; perhaps a weaver lived here. The tools could be taken outside to work in a brighter space.

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1. Sleeping mat  
2. Baskets  
3. Saguaro rib shelf  
4. Cotton textiles with painted decoration  
5. Hearth  
6. Pottery  
7. Burden basket  
8. Belt loom